

Representative **Bill Hinkle** • 13th District

I'M HERE TO REPRESENT YOU!

It is my honor to serve as your state representative. Should you have questions, comments, or suggestions, please let me know. I look forward to hearing from you.

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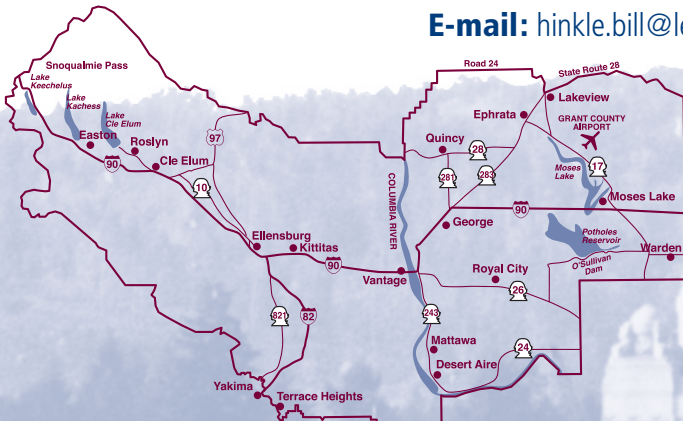
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Serving citizens in:

- **Kittitas**
- **Yakima and**
- **Grant counties**

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Committees:

- Health Care and Wellness
(Ranking Republican)
- Appropriations
- Early Learning and
Children's Services

2008 Legislative Session Preview

Bill Hinkle

13th District State Representative



Dear Neighbors,

I hope you had an enjoyable holiday season and were able to spend time with family and friends. I took time over the holidays to be with my family and also prepare for the 2008 legislative session.

The 2008 session is a short 60-day session, but one that presents a tremendous opportunity for lawmakers to get back to working for the people. This session I will focus on property taxes, water rights, health care and assisting small businesses.

I am your voice in Olympia and I hope you find the enclosed information on my priorities valuable. Please contact me to discuss these or other issues that are important to you and your family. It's an honor and privilege to serve you in the Washington State House of Representatives.

Sincerely,

Bill Hinkle
State Representative
13th District

Inside ...

- Making health care affordable
- Kittitas groundwater
- Protecting the protector
- The property tax burden
- Controlling state spending
- Foster Care

Rep. Bill Hinkle
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**2008 Legislative
Session Preview**

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Protectors



HINKLE WANTS TO PROTECT THE PROTECTORS

This session, I have introduced legislation that would prevent the broad, general release of Washington State Patrol officers' personal information to the public. The legislation is in response to a request from a news organization for the personal information of every Washington State Patrol and other officers.

I firmly believe when the issue of open government collides with protecting the lives of our state troopers and their families, safety should come first. Law enforcement officials put their lives on the line every day to protect the public. The least we can do is help them feel more secure in their own homes. There are a lot of revenge-driven criminals and identity thieves who would love to take personal information and do bad things with it. This is an unnecessary, dangerous risk for our state troopers.

Groundwater



KITTITAS GROUNDWATER

The \$24,000 question is how much groundwater is in Kittitas County? Over the last year the debate on exempt wells and the status of the groundwater has intensified. In November, Rep. Judy Warnick and I wrote to the governor to fund a study to collect as much information about the reality of the water situation in Kittitas County. I am pleased the governor responded and proposed \$683,000 in the supplemental budget for this study.

Right now there is controversy over exempt wells in Kittitas County. I believe that good public policy comes from good information and that is why I will work hard to ensure the Legislature approves the \$683,000. We need solid facts and data before we make any decisions on the future of exempt wells.

Property Tax



THE PROPERTY TAX BURDEN

The enormous increase in property taxes over the last few years has left many people worried. Residents are asking: "Can I afford the taxes and will I lose my home?"

The property tax issue was front and center in November when the Washington State Supreme Court threw out the voter-approved Initiative 747. I-747 was passed by the voters in 2001 and limits the annual property tax levy increase at 1 percent. In response to the court's decision, the Legislature held a special session in late November to uphold the will of the people. This was the right decision, but unfortunately the 1 percent cap does not go far enough to address the property tax crisis.

During the special session, Republicans tried to introduce a bill that would have immediately provided a \$400 rebate for Washingtonians who paid property taxes on their primary residence in 2007. Unfortunately, the majority party dismissed our proposal. The Legislature needs to act this session to ensure homeowners are not forced out of their homes because they cannot afford skyrocketing property taxes.

2008 Legislative Session Preview

State Spending



CONTROL STATE SPENDING, HINKLE SAYS

State spending has increased 32.4 percent in four years and is now over \$33.4 billion.

The Economic and Revenue Forecast Council predicts a reduction in government revenue of around \$132 million this year.

The governor's budget office predicts a \$600 billion shortfall by 2011.

So what do these stats mean? They mean Olympia's appetite for uncontrollable spending will send our state into a deficit. The Legislature must reign in spending this year and set aside significant savings in the Rainy Day Fund.

Health Care



HINKLE HAS SOLUTIONS TO MAKE HEALTH CARE AFFORDABLE

The health care debate needs to be about results, not rhetoric. The results all Washingtonians are looking for are

access and affordability.

My experience serving on the Blue Ribbon Commission on Health Care last year, and as the ranking Republican on the Health Care and Wellness committee, tells me the way to achieve these results is to let patients own their health insurance by shifting control away from government and insurance companies.

Currently, you simply take the plans your employer has to offer or that the insurance company offers for the group you're in. Your insurance is not portable and there is no looking for the best plan that meets the needs of you and your family. Unfortunately, moving to a universal, socialized health system would further entrench this current system – a system that has reduced access and dramatically increased costs.

Foster Care



KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE

Improving the safety of children in the foster care system has been a major focus for me over the past few years.

Last session I sponsored two bills that were passed and signed into law aimed at improving the system to keep children safe – Sirita's Law (**HB 1333**) and the Raphael Gomez Act (**HB 1334**).

In addition to protecting children, we must also be sure to support the foster parents who take care of the children who have been removed from their homes.

Representative **Bill Hinkle**

Rep. Bill Hinkle serves as the ranking Republican on the Health Care and Wellness Committee.

